

RBB

51k



CYPRUS

---

# MEDICAL & SANITARY REPORT

1944

---

NICOSIA

PRINTED AT THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

---

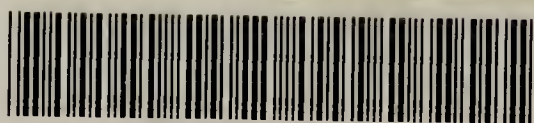
1945

RBB/51(k)



WILSON INSTITUTE
LIBRARY
WILSON
+
Am 16p
Vol 28
.EC7
C99

1944



22501398074



# MEDICAL AND SANITARY REPORT FOR 1944.

## CHAPTER I.—ADMINISTRATION.

### (A) FINANCIAL.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Expenditure :	—	—	—	—	—
Personal Emoluments .. ..	£26,232	£25,803	£25,576	£31,207	£28,988
Other Charges .. ..	£47,909	£53,588	£64,451	£76,567	£96,303
Total .. ..	£74,141	£79,391	£90,027	£107,774	£125,291

The 1944 figure represents 3.39% (5%)\* of the Colony's Expenditure for 1944.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Revenue .. ..	£6,670	£7,482	£10,802	£13,909	£13,067

Of the 1944 total £6,096 (£5,626) was collected from holders of Mukhtars' certificates.

### (B) LEGISLATION AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH ENACTED DURING THE YEAR.

Law No. 4.—The Public Health (Anti-Malaria) Law, 1944.  
Orders and Regulations.—14 Orders and regulations were made during the year.

## CHAPTER II.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

### (A) GENERAL REMARKS.

The general health of the Colony during 1944 was considered to have been satisfactory, the incidence of infectious diseases being relatively low. No epidemics were reported.

#### (i) STATISTICS.

The following table shows the main causes of morbidity in relation to in-patients and out-patients (first attendances only) at hospitals, dispensaries, V.D. clinics and ophthalmic clinics.  
The classification is based on the International List of Causes of Death, 1938.

Group	1943			1944		
	Total In-pat. treated	Deaths	Total Out-pat. †	Total In-pat. treated	Deaths	Total Out-pat. †
I. Infective and parasitic diseases ..	2,032	94	25,133	1,000	65	25,399
II. Cancer and other tumours ..	270	10	630	235	8	455
III. Rheumatism, diseases of nutrition and of the endocrine glands, other general diseases and vitamin deficiency diseases .. ..	195	7	8,068	205	3	8,087
IV. Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs .. ..	81	12	2,218	50	4	2,571
V. Chronic Poisoning and Intoxication	19	1	94	46	6	186
VI. Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs .. ..	257	4	26,484	258	14	22,943
VII. Diseases of the circulatory system	235	30	4,589	251	23	3,732
VIII. Diseases of the respiratory system	691	29	12,454	538	22	10,287
IX. Diseases of the digestive system ..	1,779	37	25,104	1,932	43	22,493
X. Diseases of the urinary and genital systems (not venereal or connected with pregnancy or the puerperium) .. ..	480	18	4,522	434	14	4,226
XI. Diseases of pregnancy, childbirth & the puerperal state .. ..	959	15	1,322	1,101	21	1,686
XII. Diseases of the skin and cellular tissue .. ..	328	—	12,518	349	—	13,516
XIII. Diseases of the bones and organs of movement .. ..	238	3	823	302	8	979
XIV. Congenital malformations .. ..	8	—	66	19	—	62
XV. Diseases peculiar to the first year of life .. ..	5	1	69	45	—	66
XVI. Senility, old age .. ..	1	—	351	8	2	247
XVII. Deaths from violence .. ..	951	27	8,706	797	20	8,788
XVIII. Ill-defined causes of death ..	62	5	2,726	106	—	2,969
Total .. ..	8,591	293	135,877	7,676	253	128,692

	1943	1944
Average number of deaths per 1,000 in-patients ..	34	33
Total number of days spent by the patients in hospitals	105,823	101,127
Average number of days per patient in hospital ..	12.3	13.2

\* Figures in parenthesis refer to the year 1943 throughout the Report.  
† No death was recorded among the out-patients.



## (ii) NUTRITION.

The experiments in giving extra food to undernourished children were continued by the Cyprus Mines Corporation in the Cyprus Mines Corporation area. The Commission of Enquiry into the wages arranged for a small survey to be made amongst the labouring classes and the findings indicated that mal-nutrition did not exist to any marked degree. On the whole the nutritional state of villagers has been more satisfactory during the war than previously owing to the larger circulation of money.

The dietaries of various Government Institutions were reviewed.

## (iii) TRADES AND INDUSTRIES.

This service has been taken over by the Labour Department.

## (iv) CONTROL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

Permits issued for local transfer of these drugs numbered 519. 283 inspections have been carried out by the department under the Defence Orders, Pharmacy Laws, and Dangerous Drugs Laws. 5 persons were prosecuted by the Police and 16 persons were prosecuted by the Medical Department for offences against the relative Laws.

## (B) DISEASES.

## I. GENERAL SYSTEMIC AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES TREATED IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The figures are those given above under Statistics.

## II. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

The prevalence of infectious diseases was lower by half than the previous year. This remarkable drop is unaccountable, even the diseases themselves were of a much milder character, thus sporadic cases passing unnoticed.

The low incidence and mild character of the infectious diseases of children might be illustrated in the relatively low infant mortality rate which was 81.8‰ as compared with 120.8‰ in 1943 and 184.6‰ in 1942. It should be noted, however, that the exceptionally high infant mortality rate in 1942 and 1943 was due to extensive epidemics of measles and whooping cough.

(a) *Insect-borne diseases.*

## MALARIA.

7,686 (10,184) cases of all forms were reported by Government Medical Officers. The chief contributory factor to the low incidence of malaria was thought to be the low rainfall, 0.85 (1.25) inches, during the spring.

The normal anti-malarial control works were carried out; it is hoped that the funds now available under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act will control the incidence of this disease during the ensuing years, especially in the marshy areas. Sanitary labourers were employed over the twelve month period.

A law to make better provision for the prevention of the spread of malaria was enacted during the current year.

(b) *Infectious diseases.*

## SMALL-POX.

Three cases of small-pox—two imported and one autochthonous—occurred at a sea port in the beginning of the year. Drastic quarantine measures were taken and mass vaccination of population at risk, carried out.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The work undertaken in the three Anti-Tuberculosis dispensaries has again increased; 480 (357) new cases attended during the year; of these 146 were found to be tuberculous. 1,084 (834) pneumothorax refills were carried out at the dispensaries, and 1,210 (1,018) home visits were made by Health Visitors.

The work in the dispensaries is being increasingly appreciated by the public and there have been repeated requests for dispensaries to be opened in both Famagusta and Paphos.

In order to provide for the extra necessary staff and the additional amount of medical work a scheme of reorganization has been prepared whereby the Cyprus Anti-Tuberculosis League would continue to collect funds and provide assistance to necessitous patients through the Care Committees, but the Government will be responsible for the running of the dispensaries.

Owing to the constant demand for in-patient treatment the temporary Sanatorium at Aghirda, consisting of a collection of ex-army huts was opened in November and 20 patients were treated during the remainder of the year. The buildings are far from satisfactory but the scheme has enabled a certain number of advanced cases to be isolated from their families, and others, not requiring active collapse measures, were able to continue their routine treatment after a period of observation at the King George V Jubilee Sanatorium at Kyperounda.

The programme of collapse therapy at Kyperounda continued during the year but unfortunately owing to the Tuberculosis Officer being on leave for 3 months without a proper relief, the non-arrival of essential surgical instruments from the United Kingdom and the shortage of trained staff, the work was not as extensive as had been anticipated, consequently only 53 patients were admitted during the year.

Collapse therapy was carried out as follows:—

Induction of Pneumothorax .. .. .	32
Pneumothorax refills .. .. .	1,376
Induction of Pneumoperitoneum .. .. .	2
Thoracoscopy .. .. .	40
Phrenic Paralysis .. .. .	33
Thoracoplasty (stages) .. .. .	12

In spite of some delay in the collapse therapy programme, resulting in less patients being admitted than in previous years, there appears to have been some improvement in the final results of treatment as can be seen by the proportion of deaths to admissions in the Sanatorium.

	1941	1942	1943	1944
Admissions .. .. .	65	71	61	53
Deaths .. .. .	26	25	11	5
Percentage .. .. .	40%	35%	18%	9%



## Kyperounda Sanatorium—(continued).

KYPEROUNDA SANATORIUM.  
STATISTICS.

							Males		Females		Total	
Remaining at end of 1943	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	25	..	50	
Admitted	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	18	..	53	
												103
Discharged	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	..	17	..	49	
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	5	
												54
Remaining at end of 1944	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	24	..	49	
												49

VENEREAL DISEASES.  
(cases treated in the V.D. clinics.)

Diseases						Total	New-patients		Old-patients continuing their treatment
							New Cases	Chronic Cases	
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	1,637	95	290	1,252
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	1,860	279	624	957
Other V.D.	..	..	..	..	..	339	339	—	—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	3,836	713	914	2,209

A fairly high degree of correlation has been observed between the number of prostitutes attending regularly the Venereal Diseases clinics and the number of the new gonorrhoea cases, the correlation coefficient being  $r = -0.87 \pm 0.061$ .

The average amount of decrease of new gonorrhoea cases, per an increase of every 100 prostitutes attending regularly the V.D. clinics, has been observed to be 19.5 per 100,000 of population.

## Prophylactic Centres.

Seven private and five municipal prophylactic centres functioned during the year; the attendances were as follows:—

Nicosia	Larnaca	Limassol	Famagusta	Paphos	Total
45,222	8,353	27,232	7,014	4,234	92,055

## TYPHOID FEVER.

The number of cases dropped from 1,155 in 1943 to 505 in 1944. This is the lowest on record since 1939. The cases were distributed all over the island; however, there were two small epidemics. The main factors which might have contributed to diminution were:—

(i) An extensive anti-typhoid inoculation campaign instituted in the previous year as a result of which 21,473 persons were artificially immunized.

(ii) The cessation of the movements of labourers previously engaged on military works; thus preventing spread by carriers or placing non-immune persons in an endemic area.

(iii) The lower rainfall lessening the possibility of contamination of the sub-soil water wells.

However, there is no reason to be complacent so long as rural sanitation remains in its present backward state.

## TRACHOMA.

A survey was made during the current year in order to enquire into the position of trachoma, as to whether further measures should be taken during the next few years to combat this disease. It was recommended in the report, that a special ward or hospital should be built in Nicosia, that medical officers and nurses should receive training in Jerusalem and that closer liaison should be arranged between the Education Department and the medical staff.

## KALA-AZAR.

Professor S. Adler of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, visited Cyprus during the month of August in order to make a survey into the incidence of sand-flies in relation to human visceral leishmania. He was able to identify eight species of which two, namely *phlebotomus perniciosus var. tobbi* and *P. chinensis*, were the probable vectors for the incidence of visceral leishmania. Both visceral and cutaneous leishmania appear to be widespread amongst the canine population. Later on, Dr. S. Adler sent another species, i.e., *P. perfilievi* which is also one of the probable vectors, thus making the total of identified species to nine.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the cases of notifiable diseases reported during the past three years:—

	1942	1943	1944
Small-pox	—	—	3
Chicken pox	193	116	193
Diphtheria	60	42	39
Scarlet fever	9	3	2
E.C.S. Meningitis	100	35	35
Typhoid fever	1,186	1,155	505
Dysentery	302	211	191
Tuberculosis	253	238	223
Measles	900	13	5
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	3	—	4
Trachoma	1,234	1,228	906
Leprosy	15	12	7
Whooping cough	49	1,199	42
Anthrax	2	4	1
Relapsing fever	73	26	2



## (c) VITAL STATISTICS.

## RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SIX DISTRICTS OF THE ISLAND.

(Including the six principal towns)

District	(For the year ended 31st December, 1944)				
	Births		Deaths		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births
	No. of live births	Rate per 1,000	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000	
Nicosia .. .. .	4,566	34.21	1,403	10.51	83.66
Larnaca .. .. .	1,762	34.81	468	9.24	64.70
Limassol .. .. .	2,342	33.53	719	10.29	80.70
Famagusta .. .. .	2,938	32.64	818	9.09	78.28
Paphos .. .. .	1,916	35.91	579	10.85	92.90
Kyrenia .. .. .	806	29.46	276	10.09	98.01
Whole Island .. .. .	14,330	33.74	4,263	10.04	81.79

NOTE: As from 1944, the population of the Colony and of the Districts has been estimated on a revised system. The estimated population of Cyprus on 30th June, 1944, was 424,656.

## (d) HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

## REFUGEES.

During the year small batches of refugees, mainly from Greek islands, reached the shores of Cyprus and were placed in the various quarantine stations. No cases of dangerous infectious diseases occurred. With the exception of those who arrived from the island of Rhodes, towards the end of December, the condition of the refugees was better than the previous arrivals.

Following the quarantine period the refugees were settled at four camps, *i.e.*, Zygi, Skouriotissa, Mavrovouni and Xeros. Some of the refugees were allowed to live in the towns and villages.

Adequate medical and nursing care was given at various refugee camps and in the Government institutions.

## HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME.

A Commission of Enquiry into the wages of labourers recommended the introduction of a modified health insurance scheme for regular Government workers. The workers pay 1s. per week and the Government pays an equivalent amount. From the fund so provided, free medical treatment including hospital treatment and medicines, is granted to the employee and his family, also sick pay up to the maximum of one month. It is hoped that, if funds accumulate, the service will be extended in order to include further benefits.

The scheme was put into operation during the latter part of the year.

## RURAL HEALTH CENTRES.

A plan was outlined for the establishment of Rural Health Centres in the villages. It visualises a comprehensive medical service, wherein the villager contributes his share by means of a house assessment. The plan is so devised as to combine preventive and curative medicine with a special emphasis on maternal and child welfare. The Colonial Development and Welfare Fund has made a grant of £125,000 spread over a period of six years and it is hoped that the scheme will go into operation, on a modified scale, early in 1945. Attention was given to the training of personnel required for this work.

## CHAPTER III.—PORT HEALTH WORK.

Very close supervision was maintained at the sea and air ports owing to a considerable amount of infectious diseases in the neighbouring countries such as small-pox, typhus and plague.

Port health staff and dock workers were vaccinated against typhus and plague.

## CHAPTER IV.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

719 cases were attended by the midwives and their pupils: this figure includes both domiciliary and hospital confinements.

## MATERNITY WARDS.

					1942	1943	1944
<i>Cases—</i>					—	—	—
(1) Normal labour	..	..	..	..	316	419	540
(2) Complicated	..	..	..	..	74	63	138
					— 390	— 482	— 678
<i>Deaths—</i>							
(1) Mothers	..	..	..	..	4	6	9
(2) Infants born alive	..	..	..	..	27	20	33
					— 31	— 26	— 42
Still births	..	..	..	..	39	43	74

One midwife holding diploma of a recognized school was registered.

## CHILD WELFARE.

Welfare centres functioned at all the chief towns except Limassol and Kyrenia. They are financed and managed by voluntary effort assisted by grants from municipal councils. 12,358 (12,732) attendances were recorded.



## CHAPTER V.—HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES, CLINICS AND LABORATORIES.

The following comparative table shows the number of in-patients and out-patients seen, and operations performed during 1942, 1943, and 1944.

The number of out-patients does not include the patients who attended V.D. clinics, dental clinics and ophthalmic clinics.

### GOVERNMENT AND STATE-AIDED HOSPITALS.

Hospital	In-patients			Out-patients			Operations		
	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944
Nicosia .. ..	2,704	2,453	2,346	29,852	30,249	27,452	1,267	1,376	1,436
Larnaca .. ..	1,059	1,069	1,118	8,543	10,267	11,475	320	324	495
Limassol .. ..	1,006	911	940	10,431	12,278	12,307	513	517	583
Famagusta .. ..	884	960	914	7,380	8,360	9,000	491	562	579
Paphos .. ..	483	491	484	3,231	4,662	5,320	101	152	113
Kyrenia .. ..	551	569	404	6,256	8,035	5,368	45	51	45
Total .. ..	6,687	6,453	6,206	65,693	73,851	70,922	2,737	2,982	3,251

### MENTAL HOSPITAL.

	<i>Males</i>			<i>Females</i>			<i>Total</i>
Remaining at end of 1943 .. ..	174	..	..	109	..	..	283
<i>Admissions—</i>							
Admitted for the first time .. ..	33	..	..	14	..	..	47
Re-admitted .. ..	10	..	..	5	..	..	15
On termination of parole .. ..	—	..	..	1	..	..	1
							346
<i>Discharges—</i>							
Recovered .. ..	21	..	..	11	..	..	32
Improved .. ..	7	..	..	2	..	..	9
Not improved .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
On parole .. ..	4	..	..	5	..	..	9
Deaths .. ..	16	..	..	4	..	..	20
							72
Remaining at end of 1944 .. ..	168	..	..	106	..	..	274
							274

### LEPER FARM.

Number of lepers in the farm on 31st December, 1943 .. ..	100
Admitted during 1944 .. ..	12
	112
On parole .. ..	11
Died .. ..	9
	20
Remaining on 31st December, 1944 .. ..	92

### DISPENSARIES.

The following figures show the work carried out at the six district and seventeen rural dispensaries :—

	1942	1943	1944
Number of first attendances .. ..	143,449	157,486	153,925 <sup>1</sup>
Subsequent attendances .. ..	143,655	175,540	167,257 <sup>2</sup>
Number of dressings .. ..	53,197	56,934	48,705 <sup>3</sup>
Number of prescriptions executed .. ..	377,830	394,964	431,709 <sup>4</sup>

### OPHTHALMIC CLINICS.

The following table shows the work done by travelling and honorary oculists at ophthalmic clinics.

	1943			1944		
	Total	Trachoma	Other eye diseases	Total	Trachoma	Other eye diseases
New attendances .. .. (Not necessarily new cases)	16,425	1,799	14,626	14,308	2,199	12,109
Subsequent attendances .. ..	23,249	15,515	7,734	24,275	14,451	9,824
Operations .. ..	236			400		

### DENTAL CLINICS.

The total number of attendances at town schools, hospitals, clinics, prisons, leper farm and refugee camps was 43,292 (25,233 being first attendances). 26,758 extractions, fillings and other treatments were carried out.

During the year the services of the 3 Dental Officers were extended to 377 village schools at which 20,146 pupils were examined and treated.

<sup>1</sup> About 22 per dispensary per day.

<sup>2</sup> About 24 per dispensary per day.

<sup>3</sup> About 7 per dispensary per day.

<sup>4</sup> About 62 per dispensary per day.

### GOVERNMENT PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

The number of specimens examined excluding medico-legal cases and autopsies was 18,576 (13,735). Fees amounting to £192. 12s. 6p. were paid into revenue.

### GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

The number of samples examined or analysed was 2,529 (978), of which 187 (196) were connected with criminal cases.

Analytical work or work of an advisory nature was also undertaken for the Controller of Supplies ; (Defence Orders Special Branch).

### SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION.

The usual examination for the Government certificate in chemistry was held on 17th-20th January, 1944 ; 27 candidates presented themselves, 21 of whom passed the examination and were awarded the Government certificate. Pharmacy examinations were held on 20th and 21st November, 24 candidates presented themselves, 12 of whom passed the examination.

---

## CHAPTER VI.—TRAINING OF LOCAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH PERSONNEL.

Ten girls are in training at the nursing school of the American University at Beirut. The assistant to the pathologist proceeded to Syria for a course of training in bacteriology and parasitology at the American University of Beirut.

One Cypriot sister studied midwifery in Jerusalem, and a lady social worker visited Palestine, working chiefly at Watson House in Jerusalem. The statistical officer underwent a course of vital statistics at the Statistics Department of Palestine.

The student sanitary inspectors attended a course at the government sanitary school for the examination for the Royal Sanitary Institute certificate.

The training of midwives was continued ; six midwives were registered, following upon an examination held by the Department.

A course of lectures on Hygiene was delivered to pupil schoolmistresses.

R. L. CHEVERTON,

*Director of Medical Services.*

12th June, 1945.

---

NOTE : Some of the figures relating to the year 1943 are not the same as those published in the 1943 report. This is due to an oversight, which has now been rectified ; the revised figures are published in this report.

**The Royal Sanitary Institute  
Library.**